

HALL COUNTY BOARD OF CORRECTIONS MEETING March 6, 2007

The Hall County Board of Corrections met from general session and by published call:

11:30 a.m. Lancaster made the motion and Rye seconded to enter into the Board of Corrections. Arnold, Eriksen, Humiston, Jeffries, Lancaster, Rye and Wagoner, all voted yes and none voted no. Motion carried.

Members present were Scott Arnold, Jim Eriksen, Bob Humiston, Pamela Lancaster, Bob Rye, and Daniel Wagoner. Also present was Corrections Director Fred Ruiz.

CORRECTION DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Mr. Ruiz, Jimmy Van, and Holly Plejdrup had taken trips to see how they stand up as a team with comparisons, to Douglas and Lancaster County correction departments. His main officers have outstanding credits, and experience. We are sending other officers to Lancaster and Douglas Counties as a shadowing experience. Lancaster County would like to talk with Hall County about the possibility of housing their inmates. A trip sponsored by Chief Industries, took members of the corrections department to Georgia for the employees to see what type of environment they will be working in. Those who attended had tons of questions. The general consensus by the corrections staff is "We have a once in a life time opportunity of staring over and beginning anew with the Hall County Jail".

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE -The current status of the construction site is that, the wall panels are partially done, and will be able to start adding heat to the interior of the site once the panels are up and joint sealed. The construction is about eight weeks behind schedule at this time. The contractor still feels that they will be able to make the completion date on time. Site security is an issue that needs to be addressed. There is a drive between the correction facilities and the new safety center and fencing between the sites and the installing of lot lights have been discussed. Furniture, and fixtures, budget, what we need and what we would like to have is Ruiz's first priority. The Corrections Department is trying to use as many local businesses and keep the dollars spent right here.

Ruiz talked about his that staff. Wagner and Fosket took the initiative to improve the training for new hires. Young, and Grotzky, put a cage in the new van. Employees are stepping forward and helping out. Overtime has been reduced, as well as sick leave. Dr. King, noted that this months pharmacy bill showed a reduction, but, all it takes is one person to exhaust the medical cost for department. Ruiz stated that the transitions team is reaching self set quotas and goals for every month. The staff was given a tour of the facility and this has been good moral so they can see the construction of the new facilities, but why not open the tours of the jail to the public is what Ruiz would like the board to consider.

Eriksen would like to see Director Ruiz work with Lancaster County on the possibility of housing their inmates upon the completion of our facilities.

Wagoner reminded Ruiz that if we go into a housing contact do not take special needs inmates.

11:55 a.m. Eriksen made the motion and Lancaster seconded it to adjourn and return to regular session. Arnold, Eriksen, Humiston, Jeffries, Lancaster, Rye and Wagoner, all voted yes and none voted no. Motion carried.

Pamela J. Dubbs, Deputy County Clerk